Completion of one year of RTI Act

†*136. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Information Commission has organized a conference to commemorate the completion of one year of Right to Information Act in October, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a discussion was held on providing information regarding domestic violence under the Right to Information Act and if so, the issues which were discussed; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Information Commission organized a National Convention on completion of one year of implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005 on 13th-15th October, 2006 at New Delhi with the objective of assessing the status of implementation of the Act during the year and chalk out a roadmap on future course of action taking into account the varied experiences of the stakeholders.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Dumping of atomic energy waste in Jharkhand

*137. MISS MABEL RABELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that atomic energy waste from Mumbai, Kaiga are dumped in the villages of Jharkhand State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether nuclear waste affects the health of the tribals living in and around where it is dumped; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) how would Government save the people from the harmful effects of their exposure to this radioactive waste material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Indo-US civilian nuclear co-operation

*138. SHRI NANDI YELLIAIH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many member countries of European Union and member countries of Nuclear Suppliers' Group are opposing civilian nuclear cooperation between India and USA;

(b) If so, the complete details in this regard; and

(c) the details of the efforts made/proposed to be made by Government to bring such countries in favour of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The position of different members of the European Union and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) with regard to civil nuclear cooperation is evolving. While some countries like UK, France and Russia have expressed their support, others are yet to formalise their position. This is an ongoing process.

(c) While the US is working on the NSG to adjust its guidelines to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India, Government has taken up the issue bilaterally with a number of NSG member countries, including during summit level interactions. An Indian delegation made a presentation to the NSG Consultative Group meeting in Vienna in October, 2006. As a result of our efforts, several important countries of the NSG have expressed their understanding for the initiative.

Upgradation of NH-17

*139. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NH-17 passing through Goa is proposed to be upgraded/ widened;